



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Tom Knollman**

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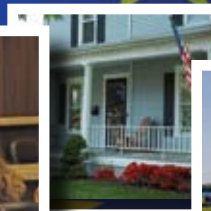
## 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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# 2009

## Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM KNOLLMAN  
200 W. WASHINGTON ST.  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

What important issues are facing our community today, in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to [h55@iga.in.gov](mailto:h55@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h55](http://www.in.gov/h55), or return this card with your comments below.

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# Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

*Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:*

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. The "education trigger" would also allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

*Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:*

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



*Rep. Knollman talking with Rep. Jeff Thompson before the start of session.*



*Rep. Knollman discussing legislation with Rep. Sheila Klinker.*

## Honoring Our Veterans

This session, we were able to honor our Hoosier heroes who have sacrificed so much for us by granting all Hoosier Purple Heart recipients free tuition to state colleges and universities. Previously, the law only provided tuition to those who received the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001, and the children of all Purple Heart recipients.

## Exploring Renewable Energy Resources

Indiana has struggled to find more sources of renewable energy. For that reason, several legislators and I co-authored a bill that requires the State Utility Forecasting Group and the state Department of Agriculture to explore the use of livestock waste-treatment systems as a potential source of renewable energy and to evaluate other forms of renewable energy.

## Helping Our Young Drivers

This new law limits distractions for our newest, most inexperienced drivers by banning drivers under 18 from using a cell phone or texting, except for emergency calls, while driving. It also sets limits on when they may carry passengers.

## Helping Our Children

The School Dropout Prevention Fund will help school officials both identify students at risk of dropping out and work with the students so they can earn their high school diplomas. More than 9,000 Hoosier students drop out of high school every year, severely limiting their chances for a successful adulthood.



# Tom Knollman

State Representative • House District 55

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